170. Needs of the Muslims.

MR. M. K. ABDUR RAHIMAN KUTTI (*Member, Municipal Council, Quilon*) said that the Government should rigidly enforce the principle of communal representation in respect of appointments in the public service.

Separate electorates should be granted to the Muslims in proportion to their population for the purpose of elections to the Legislative Council.

The Muslim officers already in the public service, more especially in the Police and Excise Departments, should be granted their due promotions.

The classification of communities for the purpose of appointments in the Judicial Department, namely, into Brahmins, Nayars, Christians and 'others' should be revised and Muslims should be treated as a separate community. At the time when the classification was originally made there were no qualified men among Muslims and hence the grouping of them along with 'others' was probably justified.

Muslim candidates who had passed the Pleadership examination should be appointed as Police Inspectors, Excise Inspectors and Sub-Registrars.

The Marumakkatayam system of inheritance prevalent among a section of the Muslims should be abolished by legislation and the Makkatayam system introduced instead.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abdur Rahiman Kutty, in regard to the public service, the question of appointing Mahomedans has been and is receiving attention and you may rest assured that their opportunities of admission to the service will in no way be interfered with.

In regard to representative institutions, you practically ask for proportional representation. That will involve reconstituting the basis on which the franchise of the Legislative Council has been formed. It is an important matter of policy whether one particular community should be removed from the ordinary rule governing franchise and placed on a separate basis. For the present, at any rate, I am not prepared to take that question up.

In regard to legislation to alter the Marumakkathayam system of inheritance in the case of Mahomedans, I belive I am correct in saying that there is only one section of Mahomedans who follow Marumakkathayam. If they will secure the services of a non-official member of the Legislative Council to introduce a private bill into the Council, I shall certainly authorise the admission of the bill, if there is a strong desire for it.

171. Concessions to the Ezhur Chetti community in the matter of education and appointments in the public service.

MR. N. MANICKAM PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) said that the Ezhur Chetti community once occupied a prominent place in the State. But for the last thirty years or so,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

they were going back in respect of education. They therefore wanted the following concessions from Government :—

1. Their pupils should be granted half-fee concession in all schools.

2. Qualified candidates among them should be entertained in the public service.

3. Representatives of the community should be nominated to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Legislative Council, the various Municipal Councils, Panchayat Courts etc.

DEWAN'S REPLY. Mr. Manikkam Pillai, the Ezhur Chetties, like all the other Chetties of the State, will have equal opportunities of getting appointments in the State with the members of other communities, and it will all depend upon whether they are qualified and, if so, to what extent, for the various appointments in the service which they seek.

172. Public Service.

MR. K. C. EAPEN (*Member, Mercantile and Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) said that the public service should exist only for serving society. That was the ideal to be kept in view by all members of the public service. But most of them were never alive to this high aspect of the service to which they belonged. They were often actuated by personal prejudices and communal partiality. In one sense the principle of communal representation in the public service was causing much evil. But it was not a principle which could be ignored. Every community should be treated in a fair and equitable manner. Government were indeed trying their best to conform to this principle. Heads of departments, however, were not very scrupulous in their adherence to it. Hence it was that people were clamouring for representation of communities in mathematical proportion to their numerical strength. This was certainly an impossible ideal to achieve.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. K. C. Eapen, it is very refreshing in the wilderness of representations pleading for special communal privileges, to come across one crying out solely for the efficiency and purity of the public service. It is several years now since the good fellowship and the tranquillity of this country began to be decimated by an infection which came over the border like the plague and the cholera we recently had. Like all pestilential epidemics it must reach its zenith sooner or later. I trust we are now at the highest point of the communal scourge and let us hope and pray that, from now forward, it may decline, decay and disappear from the country.

173. Public Service.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery*) said that no foreigner should be entertained in the public service. The pay of high officers should be reduced and that of officers in the subordinate service should be enhanced. Efficiency should be the prime consideration in the selection of officers. The aim of the Government should be to satisfy the people not by the distribution of appointments but by the just and equitable fulfilment of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly